

MRS. SARAH A. ASPOLD.

MARCH 26, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. MILES, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 1505.]

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 1505) granting a pension of \$25 per month, in lieu of \$8 now received, to Sarah A. Asbold, widow of Edward Asbold, late acting second assistant engineer United States Navy and first assistant engineer United States Revenue-Marine Service, having carefully examined and considered all the facts presented, respectfully report as follows:

Edward Asbold was appointed an acting third assistant engineer in the United States Navy December 8, 1862, and served on board the *Stepping Stones* and *Nansemond*; promoted to second assistant engineer October 18, 1864; detached from *Nansemond* August 9, 1865, and granted leave of absence prior to honorable discharge, and was honorably discharged from the service October 5, 1865, at the time ranking next after (with) masters. He accepted discharge in order to accept the appointment of first assistant engineer in the Revenue-Marine Service, to which appointed September 20, 1865. He was assigned to duty on the *Nansemond*, stationed at Savannah, Ga. He was detached from the *Nansemond* April 19, 1869, and placed on waiting orders until October 1 following, when assigned to revenue steamer *Moccasin*, stationed at Newport, R. I. On June 17, 1870, he was granted leave of absence on account of sickness, which sick leave was continued to April 12, 1872, on which date he was ordered to the *Nansemond* at Savannah, Ga. The disease from which he was suffering during this sick leave was tubercular consumption. He was transferred to the revenue steam launch *Discover*, at Savannah, Ga., June 3, 1873. Under date of November 20, 1875, he was granted leave of absence for thirty days. He died June 22, 1876, while yet in charge of the *Discover*, after an illness of four weeks.

The immediate cause of his death was hemorrhage of the lungs, and the proof is entirely satisfactory to the committee that this was the result of exposure in the service of the Government in the various grades of such service through which he passed. It will be observed that most of his service while in the United States Navy, as well as while in the Revenue-Marine Service, was performed upon the steamer *Nansemond*, and that he was continuously in service from December, 1862, until his death.

Claimant was married to Edward Asbold May 24, 1866. She applied for pension under act June 27, 1890, and is receiving \$8 per month from

date of application, July 28, 1890. She is now 48 years of age and has no other income than her pension. She owns a house valued at \$3,000, which is mortgaged for \$2,080, and maintains herself by keeping boarders.

The only ground upon which a pension could be denied her is that there is no general law now existing which extends to the widows of deceased officers in the Revenue-Marine Service, notwithstanding the fact that, in the judgment of your committee, as much reason exists for granting pensions in this service as in any other branch of the military or naval service of the United States, especially when, as in this case, the identical service was performed in the Navy and in the Revenue-Marine Service.

In view of the precedents which have been set by action of Congress in other like cases, the conclusion has been reached by your committee that it is but just and proper that an increase of pension be granted the beneficiary under the circumstances from \$8 per month, the rate she is now receiving, to \$15, the rate she would be entitled to if her husband had died in the regular naval service. The Senate passed a bill giving her \$25 per month in the Fifty-first Congress.

Your committee therefore recommend the passage of the bill with an amendment striking out the word "twenty-five," in line 10, and inserting the word "fifteen" in lieu thereof.